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graphical knowledge. Of these the last, save for sidelights on Monson's contemporaries, is perhaps the least important; and, save for the naval antiquarian, the third book is of little more value. The principal additions to knowledge are the supplementary items of information he contributes to the details of expeditions in which he took part or of which he knew, and these have, of course, been long available. What is really new lies in the appendixes, and for these the student of the period must be grateful. When the two succeeding volumes appear, and one may venture to hope it may be soon, we shall have for the first time, in convenient form, one of the most interesting of Elizabethan and Jacobean documents; and one of not merely naval interest. Whatever changes were made by his earlier editor, however little his style appealed to that unknown reviser and his character to Mr. Oppenheim, literature has too long neglected one of the most entertaining volumes of the seventeenth century. Dedications, character sketches, moral reflections scattered throughout among stories of adventure and the dry detail of naval management, provide the patient reader with a real treasury of entertainment no less than knowledge; and the literary no less than the naval historian owes to the Navy Records Society a debt of gratitude not less profound because it is not often realized.

W. C. ABBOTT.

*Ireland under the Commonwealth: being a Selection of Documents relating to the Government of Ireland from 1651 to 1659.*

Edited, with Historical Introduction and Notes, by ROBERT DUNLOP, M.A. [Publications of the University of Manchester, Historical Series, no. XVII.] (Manchester: The University Press. 1913. Pp. clxxvi, 282; lxxviii, 283-753.)

NOT many phenomena in the world of history are more remarkable than the relatively recent discovery of Ireland by the historians. The older work of D'Alton and Prendergast, the many documentary publications, Miss Hickson's essay, with those of Litton Falkiner, Bonn's study of colonization, Mrs. Green's philippic, Bagwell, and now Wilson, have supplemented and enlarged the work of Gardiner and Lecky, and led the way to cultivation of what has proved a fertile field for many workers. In this distinguished list the present volumes must take high place, no less for the important original material they contain than for the excellent essay by which that material is introduced. No one who has read the notes and reviews of books on Irish history by the editor of these documents, which run back through many years of the *English Historical Review*, can fail to recognize his eminent fitness to write such a sketch of Anglo-Irish relations under the Tudors, the early Stuarts, and Cromwell. Covering virtually the same ground as Bagwell's volumes it forms an admirable commentary on the results of that work; and within such compass it is the clearest and most instructive essay on English policy toward Ireland in that eventful period. The conclusion which Mr.

Dunlop has drawn from his years of study is, indeed, not new. "The Rebellion", he writes, "presented itself to me as an episode in the great European struggle between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism, in which England and Ireland found themselves in opposite camps, accentuated by the special difference between them in the matter of legislative independence claimed by Ireland and denied by England . . . that the crash came precisely when it did was largely an accident"; and "only by the extirpation of the whole Catholic population", could the "relapse into Popery have been prevented". This was not to be. "To turn back the clock of history was impossible. England had once had her chance to minister to the spiritual needs of the Irish. She had neglected it and the opportunity was never to occur again." A vast deal of investigation and controversy has run under the bridge since Macaulay wrote; yet if one compares this with his words on this same subject, despite the discovery of masses of source material since his time, and years of scholarly effort, no two opinions could well be more alike. It is much to have such confirmatory evidence of an opinion whose ramifications extend in so many directions and have been so often denied or distorted.

The documents themselves, transcribed, the editor tells us, many years ago as part of a collection made in preparation for a history of the Commonwealth in Ireland, which unfortunately was not written, begin with the instructions to Ludlow and the Parliamentary Commissioners in July, 1651, and end with "an order prohibiting the observance of superstitious Christmas holidays" of December, 1659. They are drawn from a variety of sources, the Commonwealth Records, the Depositions relating to the Massacres, copies of the Commissioners' letters, and like material preserved in the Public Record Office and the library of Trinity College, Dublin. They include almost every variety of testimony, chiefly, however, official, regarding the English occupation, conquest, policy, and practice in Ireland during those eventful years; and comprise, as the editor observes, "a fairly complete record of all that is likely to prove of value to a student of the period"; at least, one may qualify slightly, on the political side. Students of the period have, indeed, already made use of the sources whence these extracts were drawn. They were discovered by Prendergast, who wrote chiefly from them his *Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland*; and these very transcripts made by Mr. Dunlop were used by Professor Gardiner as the basis of much of his later volumes. So far as can be observed from his foot-notes Mr. Bagwell has used only one of the items, the instructions of March 19, 1654-1655 (A 26) and possibly two other notes. Yet though Prendergast and Gardiner have pretty well covered the field between them there yet remains in this collection, which both of them used, no small amount of material which later gleaners, attacking the problem from a still different angle than politics or its reverse side, religion, will find of value; as well as that which will enable them to check more closely their predecessors' work. Certainly any one who pretends to knowledge of

the period must hereafter take full account of these volumes. They add new distinction to the increasingly important list of historical contributions which justify the existence of the University of Manchester historical series to a degree not often equalled by similar enterprises.

W. C. ABBOTT.

*The History of England from the Accession of James the Second.*

By LORD MACAULAY. Edited by CHARLES HARDING FIRTH, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford. In six volumes. Volume I. (London: Macmillan and Company. 1913. Pp. xxxvi, 516.)

It seems not merely "surprising", as Professor Firth observes, that no illustrated edition of Macaulay's *History of England* has hitherto been issued. When one considers that since the appearance of its first two volumes some sixty-five years ago Macaulay's *History* has been, if not the most admired, almost certainly the most widely read historical work in the English language; that in this same period the art of illustration has been revolutionized; and that it has been so lavishly applied to so many books so much less worth while, it seems incredible that a work whose picturesque quality invites to illustration should have gone so long unadorned. That there is a demand for pictures the many reprints of Lodge, the Oxford historical portraits, the beautiful Goupil Stuart series, Green, Traill, and a host of minor publications seem to prove; and it is the more curious that the two most eminent of English historians, all things considered, should have been so neglected. It may be that the publishers have thought that good history needed no pictures; or that there may linger in some quarters a feeling that scholarship and literature do not go hand in hand with illustration; or that learning unadorned is adorned the most. Whatever the cause the result has been unfortunate and the publishers are to be congratulated on this most interesting venture, and on the appearance of its initial volume.

Such a work as this must be judged by two standards, the one editorial, the other pictorial. From the first, despite the announcement, we are at present barred; since it appears that whatever notes are to be contributed by Professor Firth to the elucidation or correction of Macaulay's text are to be confined to a final and apparently a separate volume, and not inserted at the point to which they refer. Whatever may be thought of this as an editorial device, it effectually suspends judgment till the work is complete. We are thrown back, therefore, on the illustrations. The danger always is that such books as this may fall into the error of pure decoration or even mere prettiness. Against this error the enlisting of Professor Firth and his capable associates and assistants has been a sufficient guarantee. From the Sutherland Collection in the Bodleian Library, from the National Portrait Gallery, the British Museum, the Pepys Collection, and a large number of other sources has been brought together an extraordinary number of interest-